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assistance in collection of the materials for the work. This has enabled the author to present a complete picture, and it perhaps goes far to explain the roseate hues with which the picture is colored. Like others of Mr. Bancroft's books, it is a product of the co-operative effort of secretaries and assistants. The investigations were directed in this case by Mr. George H. Morrison. The book is not to be criticised unfavorably, however, but is to be recommended to the reader desirous of knowing more of the social life and industrial and commercial conditions of our neighbor republic. The book is well illustrated and contains three good maps.

A more detailed study of a portion of a country is to be found in "The Mountains of California," by John Muir,* a descriptive work enriched by much botanical and geological material. The book will appeal most strongly to the naturalist, but may also be profitably read by anyone seeking an intimate acquaintance with the physiography of California, in order thereby thoroughly to understand the natural resources of the State.

Among the especially instructive descriptive books is the well-known work on "Holland," by the Italian author, De Amicis,† a new translation of which has recently appeared. The charm of De Amicis' style and the excellence of his descriptions are known to many tourists, but his volumes are more than books of travel for travelers; they are written by one who observes the commercial and industrial life of the people whom he visits, as well as takes account of their art, architecture and social customs. De Amicis has in lesser degree the virtues of Arthur Young and Frederick Law Olmstead. In the work on "Holland" the general economic conditions of the country are quite fully stated. I know of no other book giving one such a vivid picture of Holland. The opening sketch of the country as a whole and the subsequent chapter on Friesland seem especially good, but the entire work will well repay reading. This edition, artistically bound and illustrated, is an example of the excellence at present obtainable in the bookmaking art.

EMORY R. JOHNSON

NOTES.

THE CLASS of small independent producers—called by the Germans *Handwerker*—has received attention from the historian and economist chiefly as the victims of capitalism, as a class whose field of

* *The Mountains of California*. By JOHN MUIR. Pp. xiii, 381. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Century Company, 1894.

† *Holland*. By EDMONDO DE AMICIS. Translated from the thirteenth edition of the Italian by Helen Zimmern. Two vols. Pp. 273 and 275. Price, \$5.00. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, 1894.

operations is constantly narrowing, and whose fate is, perhaps, ultimate extinction. An interesting account of the history, present condition, aspirations and prospects of this still very large class of workers in Germany is given in a monograph entitled "*Das Programm der Handwerker*," *Eine gewerbepolitische Studie*,* by Hugo Böttger. The analysis made by Herr Böttger indicates that too hasty conclusions have been drawn from the increasing dominance of the large concern in modern industry, and the patent influence of machinery upon the *Handwerker*. He shows that the class is holding its own so far, at least, as numbers are concerned, and that modern industrial processes are changing but not destroying the field for this kind of work. He also chronicles the growth in the class of a strong *esprit du corps* and of strong organizations, and predicts trouble for the German politicians if they do not heed the demands which it makes, and which it is preparing to push with vigor. From a social and political standpoint he regards this class as the bulwark of German patriotism, and as a connecting link between the social extremes which must of necessity be maintained if the existing industrial system is to be preserved.

THE APPEARANCE OF the delayed second volume of the revised edition of Bryce's "American Commonwealth" † will be most welcome to all persons interested in social and political science. Mr. Bryce easily holds first place among foreign critics of American institutions, and his work on "The American Commonwealth" proved popular and useful to Americans from the first. The book has been considerably enlarged and strengthened by the additions. Besides the increase in volume incident to revision, the work is lengthened by four new chapters. These chapters are as valuable as any that are to be found in the book. One is on "The Tammany Ring," and gives an excellent sketch of the history and workings of that organization. Another deals with "The Home of the Nation," and gives a "rapid survey of the geographical conditions of the United States, and of the influence those conditions have exerted, and may, so far as can be foreseen, continue to exert on the growth of the nation, its political and economical development." It detracts little from this excellent chapter to find a slight misstatement or two. Mexico is said to have ceded us the southwestern part of the United States in 1846. We conquered the territory that year, but Mexico's cession came in 1848. The first Pacific Railroad was completed in 1869, and not in 1867. Likewise, in view

* Pp. 283. Brunswick: A. Limbach, 1893.

† *The American Commonwealth*. By JAMES BRYCE. Two vols., third edition. Completely revised throughout with additional chapters. Pp. 724 and 900. Price, \$4.00. New York and London: Macmillan & Co, 1895.

of the fact that Michigan is the greatest producer of iron ore, it is a little misleading not to qualify the statement that "the greatest coal and iron districts are in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and along the line of the Alleghenies southwards into Alabama." The other two new chapters are concerning "The South Since the War" and "The Present and Future of the Negro." The publishers would do an excellent service by publishing these two chapters in cheap pamphlet form, and selling them widely among all sections of the United States. No fairer and more suggestive treatment of the Southern question has ever appeared.

IT IS RARE that a great lawyer is also a great teacher, and probably no man combined these qualities in a larger degree than did the late Theodore W. Dwight, of Columbia College. It is, therefore, fortunate that some of his best work as a teacher was left in such form as to permit of publication by the administrators of his estate. Professor Dwight left an unfinished manuscript of an introduction to the law of contracts, which his administrators have published under the title, "*Commentaries on the Law of Persons and Personal Property.*"* The administrators are to be congratulated on securing Mr. Edward F. Dwight to do the work of editing the manuscript. Mr. E. F. Dwight is the nephew of Professor Dwight, was trained under his uncle's teaching, and has exceptional abilities. The volume bears evidence of careful editing.

The work is primarily intended for students of the law, but students of political science and economics will find parts of the book of excellent service. The first fifth of the volume deals with the sources of common and statute law, and the rights of persons, including the law applying to citizens and aliens. This is all of value to the student of political science. Economists, as well as lawyers, will be interested in the sixty-four pages (350-414) given to the discussion of corporations. The work, as a whole, will serve as a convenient reference book. A little over half the space is devoted to the law of persons; the remainder considers the law of personal property.

THE FIRST VOLUME of "Translations and Reprints from the Original Sources of European History,"† being published by the

* *Commentaries on the Law of Persons and Personal Property*, being an Introduction to the Study of Contracts. By THEODORE W. DWIGHT. Edited by EDWARD F. DWIGHT, of the New York Bar. Pp. lxii, 748. Price, \$6.00. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1894.

† Cf. ANNALS, January, 1895. Page 161.

Department of History of the University of Pennsylvania, has been completed by the recent appearance of Number Six, containing "English Constitutional Documents."* This pamphlet contains Coronation Oaths from Ethelred II. to Edward II., Charters of Liberties of Henry I. and Henry II., Magna Carta, Confirmation of the Charters, Writs of Inquisition and Recognition, Assize of Clarendon, Typical Cases of Royal Courts, Constitutions of Clarendon, Writs for Parliament and Bill of Rights.

THE PROBLEM of how to take care of the poor in a great city is difficult under the most favorable circumstances. Since we have come to the full realization of the fact that the only worthy aim of a system of poor relief is the restoration to the ranks of normal manhood and womanhood of those paupers who are capable of such restoration, and the speedy extinction of those who are beyond the possibility of help, the difficulty of the problem has increased. In an old city like Vienna, burdened with a system whose roots go back far into the past, and forming part of a complicated administration system which is also the result of peculiar historical circumstances the problem is doubly difficult. Doctor Rudolf Kobatsch, in a brochure on "*Die Armenpflege in Wien und ihre Reform*," † has carefully analyzed the conditions in which the capital city of Austria finds herself, and has recommended far-reaching reforms. His suggestions will interest students of pauperism.

THE MASSACHUSETTS "Railroad Commissioners' Report" for the calendar year 1893, is a well-prepared volume. There is a large amount of space given to the street railway companies. The volume is a model of the kind of work and of the class of material that such a report should contain. The map appended is clear and on a large scale.

WILLOUGHBY's "Public Health and Demography," ‡ is a useful compendium of information upon the subject of hygiene and sanitary science. While containing little that is new it has the merit of being both reliable and abreast of the times.

The main divisions of the book are entitled respectively "Health of the Man," "Health of the House," "Health of the City," and "Health of the People." A supplementary chapter, headed "Demography,"

* Pp. 33. Price, twenty-five cents. Philadelphia, 1894.

† Pp. 92. Vienna: Manz, 1893.

‡ *Hand-book of Public Health and Demography*. By EDWARD F. WILLOUGHBY, M. D. Pp. 509. Price, \$1.50. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1893.

treats of population and vital statistics, pointing out fallacies that are likely to occur in the use of such statistics and giving rules for their correction. Another chapter, on "Meteorology," explains some climatic variations and gives directions for the measurement of temperature, humidity, rainfall, atmospheric pressure and velocity of the wind. The last chapter, entitled "Legislation and Health," is a mere enumeration of the topics covered by the English Public Health Acts, but it serves to call attention to the increasing scope of sanitary laws, and the great number of phases of municipal life that require regulation in the interest of health.

Under "Health of the Man" chief attention is given to dietetics. Numerous tables show the composition and qualities of different foods, in which attention is given to the proportions usually assimilated—a matter of no less importance than the intrinsic nutritive power which alone is indicated by the ordinary tables of chemical composition. Directions are given for the preparation of foods and the detection of adulterations, and, in subsequent pages, the subjects of clothing and personal habits are discussed. "Health of the House" is a treatment of the problems of ventilating, warming, lighting and cleaning the home. The discussion is interspersed with numerous mathematical formulæ and illustrations of modern appliances. The problems of water supply and sewage disposal engross the chapter on "Health of the City," while the chapter on "Health of the People" embraces a classification and description of specific diseases, and a special treatment of the hygiene of the school and workshop.

While the most of the principles expounded are of universal application the value of the work to American readers is somewhat lessened by the exclusively English standpoint which is apparent in every section of the book. That the author is not familiar with American affairs is indicated by the very few references to American experience, in one of which he mentions Memphis, Tenn., as being in a tropical region and formerly ravaged by cholera.

THERE IS MORE truth in socialism, thinks Professor Ziegler, than the anti-socialists are willing to admit.* But, on the other hand, many of the remedies which the social democrats would apply to social ills must fail. Ethical discipline is an indispensable complement, he thinks, which is not provided for. Moreover if there were

* *La Question sociale est une Question morale* (Die soziale Frage eine sittliche Frage), par TH. ZIEGLER, Professor de Philosophie à l'Université de Strasbourg; traduit d'après la quatrième édition allemande par G. PALANTE, Professor de Philosophie au Lycée de Saint-Brieuc. Bibliothèque de philosophie contemporaine. Pp. 172. Price, 2 fr. 50. Paris: Félix Alcan, 1893.

such an ethical training available as he thinks it is our duty to promote, many of the present ills of society could be corrected on the basis of the present social order without recourse to the reorganization which the social democrats proclaim.

The author does not try to study the origin and constitution of ethics; he does not inquire what should be comprised in a code of ethics suitable for modern society. He assumes that the code of Christian ethics is generally accepted, shows how much more might be accomplished through it than has been accomplished, and exhorts men to practice it to the end that social disorders may be eliminated from the body social. "The individual ought not simply to wait in hope. When he inquires within himself what to-morrow shall bring forth, he is not addressing a question to destiny nor is the answer a matter of fatality. The question ought to lead to a self-examination and to the conscientious inquiry: 'what can I do, in the place which I occupy, in the rôle which I am called upon to fill, to assist in the triumph of the social spirit?'"

The author's social philosophy, so far as he unfolds it in this book, is superficial. Now superficiality is not necessarily an evil. To be superficial is, first of all, to be incomplete, to lack thoroughness in a particular way. The evil arises from treating that which is superficial as though it were thorough. The social philosophy of the social democrats is notoriously incomplete in some respects. Yet they treat it as though it were complete and Professor Ziegler does not challenge it further than to add ethics, a new stone, to the superstructure. Again the social philosophy of the opponents of social democracy is not yet thoroughly scientific and complete. One of several imperfections is that it is too exclusively individualistic, and this the author notes. But for the rest he simply shows how ethics, which is a part of the current philosophy, has been neglected. Not only then is his philosophy superficial, being incomplete, but it is misleading because and in so far as its incompleteness is ignored.

Thus the value of a book depends—and of how many books may the same be said—upon the ability of the reader to allow for its shortcomings.

MR. M. L. MUHLEMAN, United States Deputy Assistant Treasurer in New York, calls attention, in a recent note to the editors, to a mistake in the foot-note on page 102 of the January number, in the paper on "How to Save Bimetallism." The statement is there made that "since the Act of 1890 silver dollars, silver certificates and treasury notes are received for customs." Mr. Muhleman writes that the silver dollars and silver certificates have been so received since 1878, the

so-called Bland-Allison law providing therefor. Mr. Muhleman also says that in the paper on "Money and Bank Credits," the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 75, of the January number, contains a misleading statement. "The present legal reserve of from 15 per cent to 25 per cent" does not, as one would be led to believe by Mr. Williams, apply to the redemption of notes, but to deposits only. The provision for a bank reserve for notes was abolished by the Act of June 20, 1874, which provided for a 5 per cent redemption fund. Moreover, this fund may be counted as part of the legal reserve to be held against deposits.